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vious lexicon. Parts of it, however, had been used; thus, Professor Lodge had followed the plan of grouping at the close of an article the modifiers of the word under review. He had also planned to give such metrical information as Professor Wetmore purposed to give, but had been obliged to abandon the plan. Plautus's test is far less certain than Vergil's.

Admirable as Professor Wetmore's plan was, it nevertheless had, to my mind, serious disadvantages (but what mundane plan has not?). I sympathize heartily with what he says about the subjective character of all attempts at classification by meanings. But Mr. Wetmore's method makes a lexicon of far less value to any one save the expert who knows the author through and through, so that unassisted he can interpret the material presented. Driven to an extreme, such a method makes a lexicon so-called an index, valuable, yes, but far less valuable than it might be, than it ought to be to the great majority. The Lexicon Petronianum is an instance in point; it is of little help to most students of Petronius, an author full of *crucis*. Furthermore, this method would, I am sure, be a constant temptation to shirk part of the duties which, in practice, have been incumbent on lexicographers—the determination of meanings (compare the words of Professor Rand, below): it would be possible to prepare a lexicon on such a plan with but an imperfect apprehension of an author's meaning. Assuming, however, that the author of a special lexicon makes the profound studies which he ought to make, the careful studies that Professor Wetmore had made for his specimen articles, who is better qualified than he to help others to an understanding of his author's meaning? Why should he forego such an opportunity to help others? why should he allow the major part of his work to go for naught, so far as others are concerned? why should he not give us his subjective interpretation of his author? is it any more wrong, any less valuable for him to do this than it is for the editor of the text, in critical or exegetical edition, to give us an interpretation of the author which is inevitably subjective? I find myself, therefore, in agreement with Professor Rand, in his review of Professor Wetmore's Index, when he says (Classical Philology 6,378): "The <logical method> involves a study of the meanings of words, and that is the chief end of a lexicon . . . categories of the definite could be established, and a general rubric include the indeterminate".

I trust, however, that no one will think me insensible of the enormous value that would have attached to Professor Wetmore's lexicon, had he worked it out according to the plan he so carefully elaborated and so admirably presented in his dissertation.

Fate, however, dealt most harshly with Profes-

sor Wetmore and with lovers of Vergil—aye, with all students of the Classics. Copies of his dissertation were widely distributed; the work was noticed in well-known periodicals in Germany as well as in this country. Since no one notified him that he had planned or wished to plan a similar work, Professor Wetmore went on with his contemplated Lexicon. I quote now from the Preface to the Index:

In May, 1909, when about one thousand pages of the manuscript were ready for the press, the announcement was received that H. Merguet, to whom a copy of my publication had been sent in February, 1905, was about to begin the publication of a Lexicon zu Vergilius. With limited time and resources it seemed useless to continue a work which could not be completed until some time after the demand for a lexicon to Vergil's works had been met. It was thought best therefore to abandon the cherished plan and to issue this index instead.

CHARLES KNAPP.

(To be continued.)

### CORRESPONDENCE

In connection with the editorial in THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY 6.73 may I remind you that The American Journal of Archaeology publishes archaeological discussions *twice* a year, and archaeological news *twice*, in addition to a bibliography? In other words Numbers 1 and 3 publish News, Numbers 2 and 4 Discussions. Number 2 always has the Bibliography.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA. WILLIAM N. BATES.

### THE CLASSICAL CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA

The 104th meeting of The Classical Club of Philadelphia was held on Friday evening, December 13, 1912. The main paper, by Dr. G. B. Colburn, of the University of Missouri, was read in the absence of the author by the Secretary. It discussed the Noises of Ancient Rome, taking as a text the references in the satirists to urban noise and uproar. These complaints, Dr. Colburn held, are largely satirical stock in trade. The noises were personal, not mechanical. The conclusion reached was that "ancient Rome, while more noisy than Athens, was not a noisy town in the modern acceptance of the term. Its sounds were rather those of Venice than of New York . . . The average citizen was probably not subject to nervousness from this source". Dr. E. W. Burlingame gave some interesting examples of onomatopoeia from Sanskrit, Prakrit and Pali literature.

B. W. MITCHELL, Secretary.

### THE NEW YORK LATIN CLUB

The second luncheon of The New York Latin Club will be held on *Saturday, February 8* (not February 1, as originally arranged) at The Gregorian, 35th St., New York City. Dr. B. W. Mitchell, of the Central High School, Philadelphia, will address the Club.